

Statement by the International Marine Minerals Society on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the International Seabed Authority

25 July 2019

Madame President, Secretary-General, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

The International Marine Minerals Society extends its heartiest congratulations to the International Seabed Authority on its 25th anniversary and to its host nation Jamaica. The Authority's many achievements during this time include setting a solid foundation from which to address the ever more complex management challenges that the Authority faces as exploration of the Area expands and exploitation approaches.

In reflecting on productive features of the negotiation process culminating in the Law of the Sea Convention, the President of the Conference, His Excellency Ambassador Tommy Koh of Singapore acknowledged the role of non-governmental organizations, and in particular their provision of three valuable services.

- 1: Bringing independent experts to meet with delegations, thus enabling them to have independent sources of information on technical issues.
- 2: Assisting representatives from developing countries to narrow the technical gap between them and their counterparts from developed countries.
- 3: Providing opportunities to meet away from the negotiations in a more relaxed atmosphere to discuss some of the most difficult outstanding issues.

These services are also part of the Society's mission. It continues to offer them to the Authority in support of its work in meeting those challenges.

The Society wishes the Authority fair winds and following seas in its stewardship of our common heritage. Thank you Madame President.